

REMARKS

The application has been amended and is believed to be in condition for allowance.

Claims 26-52 were examined.

Claims 26-52 were rejected under 35 USC 112, second paragraph, as indefinite.

Claims 51-52 were rejected as anticipated by GRANT 6,450,104.

Claims 26-50 were indicated to be directed to allowable subject matter.

Amendments

Existing claims 26-52 are cancelled and are replaced by a new claim set comprising claims numbered 53-72. For consistency with the Official Action, the following remarks we shall refer to the original claim numbering where possible.

Claims 51 and 52 have been cancelled and not replaced. The anticipation rejection is therefore moot.

The new claims have been drafted to comply with 35 USC 112, 2<sup>nd</sup> paragraph. No new matter is entered by way of these amendments.

Withdrawal of this rejection is solicited. Should there be any remaining Section 112 issues, it is asked that the undersigned be contacted by telephone to reach agreement as to any further necessary amendments.

Original claim 26 - now claim 53

The new claim now specifically defines an extensible body as comprising forward and rearward body portions separated by a telescoping connection. This specifically defines the extensible nature of the body as being due to a telescoping connection (as is disclosed in the drawings and description). The relationship of telescoping connection to body portions is further specifically recited as allowing the distance of separation between forward and rearward portions being controllably alterable - the precise nature of the extensible body is thus defined.

The new claim defines the pivotable connection of the pivotable legs as being radially pivotable, reciting the connection to allow outward radial pivoting (splaying) of the legs. The pivotable legs of the illustrated embodiments comprise radially pivoting.

The term "legs attached by a pivotable connection" has been replaced by "radially pivotable legs" for clarity, and to help further distinguish these legs from other components of the invention.

The "wheel arrangement" of prior claim 26 is now replaced by the more precise term "retractable wheel arrangement" for clarity. A "retractable wheel arrangement" is also now defined in the claim, as comprising wall engageable wheel assemblies each coupled to a radially pivoting wheel bracket. In

claim 26 this existed as a narrative phrase referencing a retractable connection.

Further, the unique nature between the radially pivoting legs (with wall engaging feet) and radially pivoting wheel brackets (with wall engaging wheels) are defined in the claim - this unique relationship being a coupling which prevents both of said legs and brackets being simultaneously in a radially extended position.

Claim 27 has been deleted as it recites material incorporated in the revision of original claim 26 into new claim 53.

Original claim 28 - now claim 54

The new claim substitutes the revised component names of new claim 53. The more precise "telescoping connection" replaces the more general extensible body, particularly as this claim defines more specifically the nature of the telescoping connection.

Original claim 29 - now claim 55

Again, changes have been made to component names for consistency with new claim 53, and to remove the narrative nature of the original claim.

Original claim 30 - now claim 56

Changes have been made to more clearly define specific components to which the subject matter of this claim relates, and to make component names consistent with new claim 53.

Original claim 31

Deleted.

Original claim 32 - now claim 57

The new claim more precisely defines the subject matter to reflect that the radially pivotable legs are radially equidistant from each other and distributed about the longitudinal axis of the vehicle.

Original claim 33 - now claim 58

The new claim removes the narrative "resiliently connected ... to allow..." and defines the presence of a non-rigid coupling arrangement accommodating radial travel of a wheel assembly. The coupling arrangement is clearly seen in Figure 6

(see compression spring 70 and linkage). This precisely defines accommodated travel as the product physical elements.

Original claim 34 - now claim 59

The new claim has revised the wording of this claim for consistency with claim 53.

Original claim 35 - now claim 60

The original claim attempted to describe in narrative form what is commonly known as a pantograph. The new claim provides for both clarity and for consistency with claim 53. For clarity the claim also recites the linkage arrangement as comprising a pantograph, and further recites the claim such that the attached wall-engaging foot does not alter its relative orientation (with respect to the longitudinal axis of the vehicle as a reference point) as the radially pivoting legs are extended or retracted. The resulting text more precisely defines the components, their nature and inter-relationship.

Original claim 36 - now claim 61

The new claim removes the narrative passage to merely state that the radially pivotable legs still angle rearwardly when fully extended. This is how the effects of the narrative (of the original claim) are primarily achieved.

Original claim 37 - now claim 62

This has been rewritten for consistency of terminology with claim 53.

Original claim 38 - now claim 63

This has been rewritten for consistency of terminology with claim 53, and narrative phrases removed.

Original claim 39

This claim has been deleted. Original claim 40 (new claim 64) more precisely defines this subject matter.

Original claim 40 - now claim 64

The object of the claim is now the conduit travelling vehicle of claim 53, rather than merely apparatus. Changes are made to terminology for consistency with claim 53.

Original claim 50 - now claim 65

Original claim 50 was a method claim which narratively recited the apparatus and its use. The physical integers of original claim 50 have been retained (i.e. a sensor affecting stepwise travel of the vehicle) and references to method of use removed - i.e. it has been converted to an apparatus claim rather than a claim which straddled the border between apparatus and method claims. Original claim 50 was moved here as its integers

reference the subject matter of new claim 64, upon which it is dependent.

The relationship between the sensor and components of the vehicle is also defined in the revised claim.

Original claim 41 - now claim 66

Narrative reference to a water spray has been removed, and reference made to water jets.

Original claim 42 - now claim 67

The narrative has been removed. The vacuum line is now defined as having an inlet positioned on the underside of the forward or rearward body portions. This positioning facilitates the actions of the previous narrative.

Original claim 43 - now claim 68

This has been rewritten for consistency of terminology with claim 53.

Original claim 44 - now claim 69

This claim has been rewritten to remove all of the narrative characterizations. The physical arrangement of separate paddles with pivotable portions, as illustrated in Figure 9, is precisely described.

Original claim 45 - now claim 70

This now defines the presence of a reciprocating linear actuator to which the blade assembly of claim 69 is connected. This addresses the narrative nature of the original claim, and is consistent with the wording of new claim 69 upon which this claim is dependent.

Original claim 46 - now claim 71

Narrative portions of this claim have been removed.

Original claim 47 - now claim 72

This claim is now independent, includes the recitations of new claim 53 and more precisely recites the exact nature and inter-relationship of the components.

Summary

In view of the above, applicant has provided a revised claim set drafted to comply with 35 USC 112, second paragraph and to recite the allowable subject matter of prior claims 26-50.

Allowance of all the claims is therefore solicited.

This amendment is believed to be fully responsive and to put the case in condition for allowance. Entry of the amendment, and an early and favorable action on the merits is earnestly requested. Applicant respectfully requests that a timely Notice of Allowance be issued in this case.

Should there be any matters that need to be resolved in the present application, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies, to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 25-0120 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. § 1.16 or under 37 C.F.R. § 1.17.

Respectfully submitted,

YOUNG & THOMPSON

/Roland E. Long, Jr./  
Roland E. Long, Jr., Reg. No. 41,949  
209 Madison Street  
Suite 500  
Alexandria, VA 22314  
Telephone (703) 521-2297  
Telefax (703) 685-0573  
(703) 979-4709

REL/lrs